

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

JACOBS et al.

Atty. Ref.: 227-142

Serial No. Unknown

Group:

Filed: August 21, 2001

Examiner:

For: DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING METHOD

\* \* \* \* \*

August 21, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

*a1*

3. (Amended) A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that the mutation or mutations are located in the trinucleotide (CAG) microsatellite repeat of the *POLG* gene.
  

*a2*

5. (Amended) A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that the mutation or mutations are located in or near a coding region of the *POLG* gene.
6. (Amended) A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that one mutation or mutations are located in one allele of the *POLG* gene in the trinucleotide (CAG) microsatellite repeat and